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Letter dated 13 August 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement on the peace process in the Sudan issued on 8 August 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Pier Benedetto **Francese**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 13 August 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English, French and Spanish]

Statement on the peace process in the Sudan issued on 8 August 2003 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union welcomes the resumption on 10 August of the IGAD-sponsored peace talks on the Sudan.

The European Union considers that time is ripe to strike the final compromises on the outstanding key issues and reach a comprehensive agreement to put an end to the conflict and to the sufferings of the civilian population in the Sudan.

The European Union calls on the parties to work actively with the IGAD mediators led by the Kenyan Special Envoy with a view to achieving a comprehensive solution, based upon a strict observance of the rule of law and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, to fulfil the aspirations for peace and prosperity of all the Sudanese people within a unified Sudan.

The European Union commends the pivotal role of the IGAD member States and particularly of Kenya for its facilitating role, and reiterates its full and continued support for the IGAD peace process.

The European Union assures the parties of its readiness to assist them in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and to accompany the Sudan on a path of peace-building, democracy and development.

The European Union welcomes the extension of the cessation of hostilities and of the addendum on the Verification and Monitoring Team for a further three months and stands ready to support the monitoring mechanism.

The European Union urges the parties to fully abide by their commitments to signed agreements.

The acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this statement.